

# Welcome to the Greater Yellowstone Area and the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

"Transcending Boundaries in One of America's Most Treasured Ecosystems"

The Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) is comprised of two national parks, parts of six national forests, two national wildlife refuges, and other federal, state, and private lands. As most of the area lies within the public domain and includes some of the nation's most treasured natural resources, land management agencies have historically coordinated their planning and management.

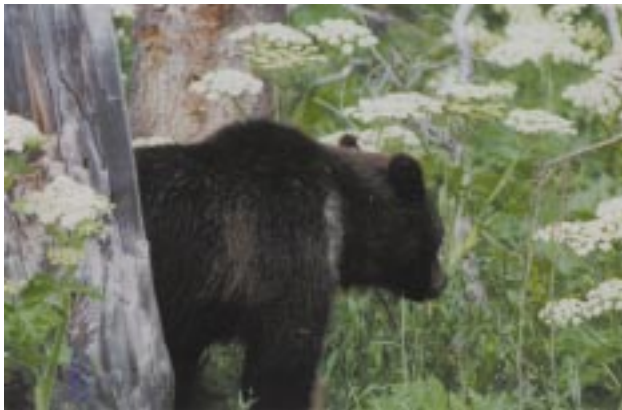
## Who is the GYCC?

The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) was formed in 1964 when the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU provides for mutual cooperation and coordination in the management of core federal lands in the GYA.

In response to Congressional hearings held in the fall of 1985 concerning coordinated management in the GYA, the MOU was revised in 1986.

The committee consists of:

- The Regional Director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service and the Regional Forester from the Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Forest Service;
- Park Superintendents from Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks;
- Forest Supervisors from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Custer, Gallatin, and Shoshone National Forests;



*Grizzly bear.*

- Refuge manager from the National Elk Refuge (also represents the interests of Red Rock Lakes refuge).

Jerry Reese, Supervisor of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, serves as the current committee chair. The chair rotates every two years. In March of 2000, Larry Timchak was hired as executive coordinator for GYCC. Larry, an employee of Yellowstone National Park, is stationed at the Custer National Forest office in Billings, Montana.

## What is the role of the GYCC?

The GYA is a unique and special place. Federal lands in the GYA, administered by six national forests, two national parks, and two national wildlife refuges, are geographically contiguous, ecologically interdependent, and unalterably linked.

Members of the GYCC recognize their responsibility to cooperatively manage GYA resources to sustain existing values and characteristics, consistent with the missions of the agencies.

The role of the GYCC is to provide leadership, guidance, and coordination for the national parks, national forests, and national wildlife refuges in the GYA. Goals for the GYCC include:

- Provide leadership in making coordinated decisions that serve the public and help sustain the resources. Ensure coordination of planning, strategies, and practices across national park, national forests, and national wildlife refuge units.
- Set GYCC level priorities and assign resources to achieve objectives.
- Provide a forum for interaction with federal, state, local agencies, private organizations, and the public. Help foster a climate that encourages coordination and sharing.
- Identify and provide for resolution of emerging issues within the GYA.
- Minimize duplication of effort; seek opportunities to share information, resources, and data.
- To the extent permissible by law and agency missions, make rules and regulations consistent across the GYA.

## Unit Descriptions

The GYA includes the following national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges:

### Yellowstone National Park

Preserved within Yellowstone National Park are Old Faithful and the majority of the world's geysers and hot springs. America's first national park is an outstanding mountain wildland with clean air and water, and is home to grizzly bears, wolves, and free-ranging herds of bison and elk.

### Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park offers a legacy of grand proportions combining worldwide recognition for spectacular scenery, bountiful wildlife, and abundant recreation opportunities. Soaring above the valley floor, the Teton Range provides a stunning backdrop for Grand Teton National Park.

### John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway

Linking West Thumb in Yellowstone with the South Entrance of Grand Teton National Park, this scenic 82-mile corridor commemorates Rockefeller's role in aiding establishment of many parks, including Grand Teton. The parkway was authorized August 25, 1972.

### Shoshone National Forest

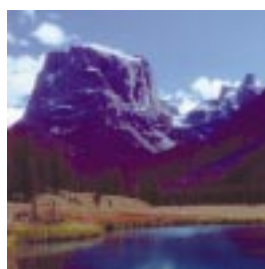
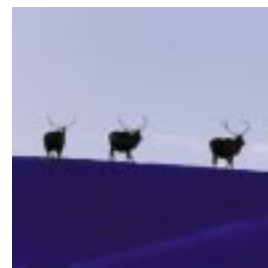
The rugged eastern flank of the ecosystem is guarded by the 2.4 million acre Shoshone National Forest, the nation's first national forest. Rich with history and breathtaking scenery, the Shoshone remains largely wild and undeveloped. Wilderness areas including the Washakie, North Absaroka, Fitzpatrick, Popo Agie, and Absaroka-Beartooth encompass nearly 1.4 million acres.

### Bridger-Teton National Forest

Rounding out the southern part of the ecosystem with its 3.4 million acres, the Bridger-Teton National Forest is the second largest national forest outside Alaska. Included are more than 1.2 million acres of wilderness in the Bridger, Gros Ventre, and Teton Wildernesses. The Bridger-Teton is a land of varied recreational opportunities, beautiful vistas, and abundant wildlife.

### Caribou-Targhee National Forest

The western neighbor to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is home to a diverse number of wildlife and fish, including threat-



*Scenes from the Greater Yellowstone Area.*

ened and endangered species, wilderness, scenic panoramas, and intensively managed forest lands. The Targhee National Forest is named in honor of a Bannock Indian warrior.

### Gallatin National Forest

The northern crown of the ecosystem, the Gallatin National Forest includes noted mountain ranges such as the Absaroka-Beartooths, Madison, Gallatins, Bridgers and Crazies—birthplace to many of Montana's blue ribbon streams. The Gallatin is a haven for both wildlife and recreationists, providing for more recreation than any other forest in the northern region.

### Custer National Forest

Visitors entering the ecosystem from the northeast experience the breathtaking Beartooth Highway, and the Beartooth plateau, the largest expanse of alpine tundra in the lower 48 states. Dotted with lakes and crossed by hiking trails, the Beartooth plateau is a recreational wonderland.



*Scenes from the Greater Yellowstone Area.*

## Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

An inviting forest noted for excellent hunting and fishing, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge offers diverse recreation

opportunities in the dozen distinct mountain ranges that span this forest. Within the GYA, the Madison Ranger District includes the Madison, Centennial, Gravelly, and Tobacco Root Mountain Ranges.

## National Elk Refuge

Created in 1912 as a result of public interest in the survival of the Jackson Hole elk herd, the National Elk Refuge continues to preserve the last of the elk winter range in the valley. The refuge is managed to provide a winter home for an average of 7,500 elk, over half of the Jackson Hole population, and provides valuable open space in the Jackson Hole area.

## Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1935 to protect the rare trumpeter swan. Today, the refuge continues to be one of the most important habitats in North America for these majestic birds. Originally homesteaded, much of the area has been restored to its natural state, leading to designation as a National Natural Landmark, as well as becoming one of the few marshland wilderness areas in the country.

## Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

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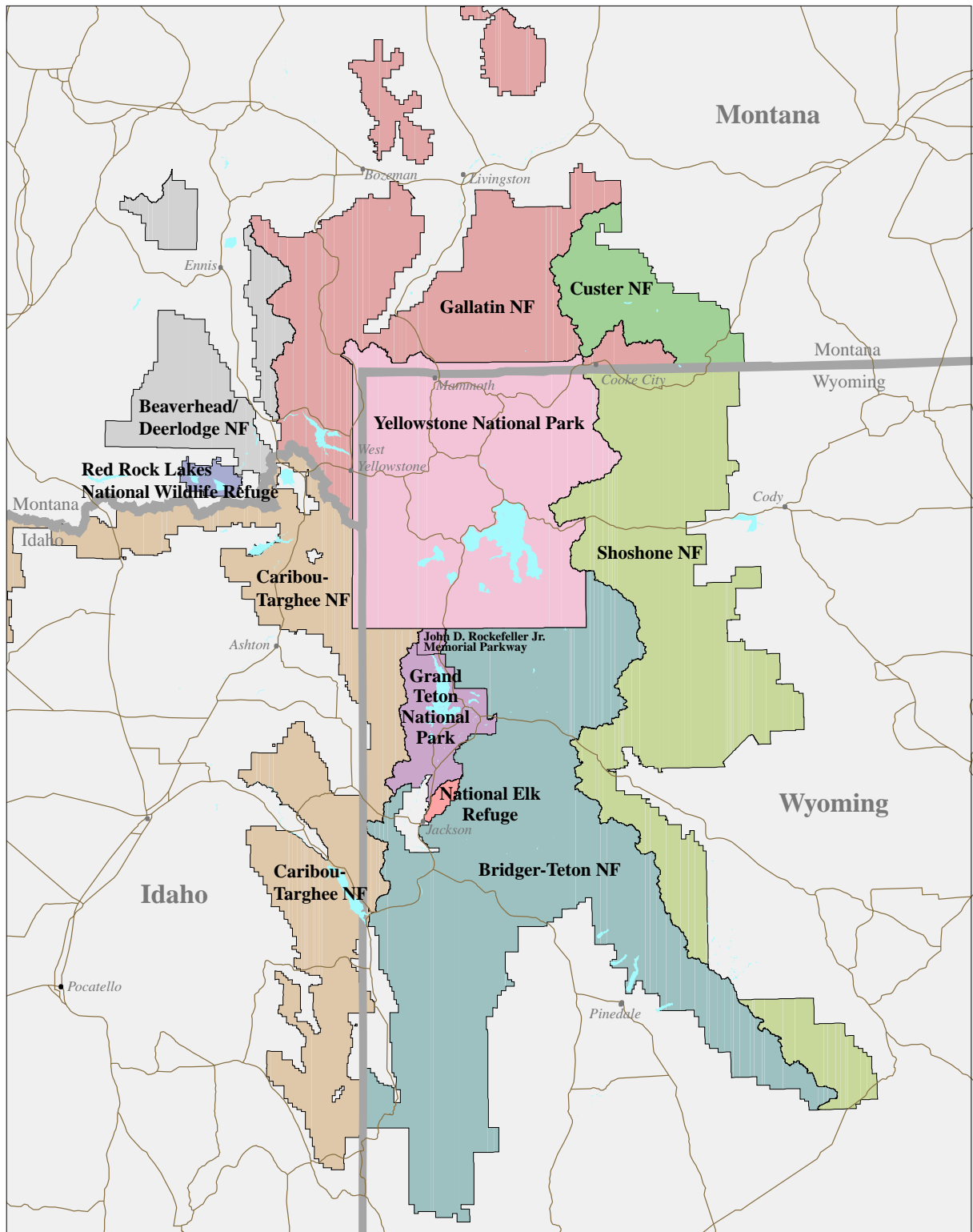
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# Greater Yellowstone Area: Administrative Units



	Major Lakes	NF	National Forest
	Major Roads	NP	National Park
	State Boundaries		

Approximate Scale 1:2,200,000

20 0 20 Kilometers

This map was made from Greater Yellowstone Data provided by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee and the Gallatin National Forest. Map by H. Shovic, Feb. 28, 2001, Version 1.2, gyaadministrativeboundaries022801.apr

